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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington D.C. 20505

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17 September 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: Senior Review Panel Review of Estimates

The Intelligence Community has a Senior Review Panel composed of former Ambassador to Yugoslavia William Leonhart, retired General William McCaffrey, former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Willis Armstrong, and Herbert Rothenberg, a distinguished scientist.

I'd like to share with you its recently completed evaluation of 46 intelligence estimates produced during the first six months of 1982 and those of 1983. They found that 1982-83 estimative production was of extremely high quality in forecast validity and policymaker utility.

They further stated that 1982 and 1983 production would--in their experience--have met most policymaker needs in timeliness, policy issue relevance, analytical quality, readability, and estimative judgment. Overall, as policymaking support, the Panel said it would regard two-thirds to three-quarters of the papers as "superior to outstanding," with the percentage rising as one moves from 1982 to 1983.

They cited one failed estimate, one produced in June of 1982 which predicted Iran's victory over Iraq.

During the years 1981-84, we will have completed 274 National Intelligence Estimates compared with 124 during the years 1977-80. I attach a tabulation indicating the areas in which the increases have been most marked--Soviet political and military, Latin America, Middle East, East Asia, nuclear proliferation, global resources, narcotics, and B/C warfare.

In case you want to glance through subjects addressed in estimates over this period, I also attach a list of National Estimate titles.


William J. Casey

Attachments

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<u>Subject Matter of National Estimates</u>	<u>1977-80</u>	<u>1981-84</u>
Soviet Political	2	11
Soviet Military	15	35
Soviet Economic	1	3
Soviet Space	2	6
China	1	6
East European Political	6	10
Western Europe/NATO	17	21
Latin America	15	36
Middle East/North Africa	22	47
South Asia	6	9
East Asia	9	22
Southern Africa	15	23
Nuclear Proliferation	5	17
Global Resources	4	11
Terrorism	2	3
Narcotics	None	6
B/C Warfare	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
	124	274

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